

EUBRANCHUS FORBES, 1838 (GASTROPODA): PROPOSED DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE-SPECIES, WITH SUPPRESSION OF SEVERAL NOMINA DUBIA. Z.N.(S.) 1102

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The purpose of the present application is to secure the continuation of the currently stable use of the generic name *Eubbranchus* Forbes, 1838, by the suppression under the plenary powers of several nomina dubia and the designation of a new type-species for the genus.

2. In 1838 Forbes (*Malac. Mon.*: 5) introduced the new generic name *Eubbranchus* for the new species *Eubbranchus tricolor* Forbes, 1838, which is therefore the type-species by monotypy.

3. In 1855 Alder & Hancock (*Mon. Brit. Nud. Moll.* (7) app.: XXII) in revising their classification of the nudibranchs, proposed the generic name *Galvina* for a genus including two groups of species. One group had the type indicated as *tricolor* Forbes, 1838, and the other as *Eolis cingulata* Alder & Hancock, 1847 (*Mon. Brit. Nud. Moll.*: fam. 3, pl. 28). The authors, however, gave no indication of whether they considered one or other of these species as the type of *Galvina*. The first designation of a type-species for *Galvina* was by Iredale & O'Donoghue (1923, *Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* 15 : 208) who chose *Eubbranchus tricolor* Forbes, thus making *Galvina* a junior objective synonym of *Eubbranchus*. Three years later (*Proc. malac. Soc. Lond.* 17 : 127) O'Donoghue tried to establish *Eolis farrani* Alder & Hancock, 1844 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* 13 : 164) as the type of *Galvina*, erroneously citing *farrani* instead of *cingulata* as the other species originally included by Alder & Hancock in their genus *Galvina*.

4. Bergh in 1874 (*Verh. zool. -bot. Ges. Wien* 1873 : 26) described a new species which he named *Galvina viridula*. Odhner (1929, *Tromsø Museums Årsshefter* 50 (1927) nr. 1 : 11) made this species the type of a separate genus *Egalvina*. *Egalvina*, which is still a monotypic genus, is easily recognised by its densely placed, outwards branching rows of cerata, and by the very strange shape of the anterior corners of the foot. Recent field investigations have given me the opportunity to see this species alive near Bergen in Norway, at the Gullmarfiord in Western Sweden, and at Elsinore in Denmark. Each time my first idea was that I had met *Eubbranchus tricolor* Forbes, and each time the specimens were afterwards found to correspond in all details to the description of *Egalvina viridula*. As the latter has never been recorded from Great Britain, and the true *Eubbranchus tricolor* never from Scandinavian waters, the suspicion arose that the two species were identical. The type of *Eubbranchus tricolor* being lost, there was no other possibility of checking the question than by borrowing some authentic material from the British Museum (Natural History) in order to see whether British scientists used the name in the manner supposed. Thanks to the courtesy of the staff of the British Museum, I have now been able to obtain on loan the only two specimens safely identified as *Eubbranchus tricolor*

from Britain in their collections. The specimens immediately proved to be the same species as *Egalvina viridula*.

5. The effect on the nomenclature of the genera involved is disastrous. Up to 1923, the name *Galvina* had come into general use for a genus containing quite a number of species, but a change was made through the publication by Iredale & O'Donoghue (1923) of a List of British Nudibranchiate Mollusca (*vide* para. 2 above), and since then the name *Eubranchus* has been universally accepted instead, *Galvina* having been made a junior objective synonym of that name. If we now permit *Eubranchus* to be transferred to the genus now known as *Egalvina*, the name *Galvina* will become similarly transferred, and we will have a large genus left without a name, and another smaller genus with three names, of which the generally used one is a junior synonym of each of the other names. This confusion must be avoided.

6. On the specific level, the name *tricolor* Forbes has been attached to a species which has always stood as one of the best defined within the genus, and for many years it has covered the type. When now the species *tricolor* has to be removed from its old generic concept, a retention of the name, although perfectly correct under the rules, will unavoidably cause much trouble. In the eyes of the experienced specialists, the name will replace *Egalvina viridula* (correctly but most inconveniently), but to all those relying for information on older literature it will for a long time remain as standing for the type-species of *Eubranchus*. In my opinion we must suppress that name as being compromised when making the adjustment now proposed. Even when *tricolor* is suppressed, it is not quite certain that *viridula* Bergh will stand as the oldest name available. In 1847, Alder & Hancock (*Mon. Brit. Nud. Moll.* (3) fam. 3, pl. 31) described a species *Eolis arenicola* which has never been found again, the single type specimen is lost, and the species thus remains dubious. It may or may not cover the species *Egalvina viridula*, and the name *arenicola* has priority. Therefore, as a potential threat to stability it should be suppressed under the plenary powers.

7. Looking around to find a suitable species on which to fix the name *Eubranchus* under the plenary powers so that it can continue to cover the taxon with which it is generally associated, I find that (a) the name *cingulata* Alder & Hancock was published in 1847 as a nomen nov. pro *Eolis hystrix* Alder & Hancock, 1842 non Otto (1821, *Consp. Anim. quor. marit. non edit.* 1 : 8). At present this species is not too well-known, and its possible identity with the older species *Eolis vittatus* Alder & Hancock, 1842 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* 9 : 35) is still debatable. It would be dangerous, therefore, to base the future position of the genus hitherto known as *Eubranchus* on such an uncertain type-species. (b) There are quite a number of species referred to the genus, but their number and their differences, as well as even their names are not sufficiently well investigated with one exception. (c) *Eolis farrani* Alder & Hancock, 1844, is the only species which is not involved in this trouble. Although it has hitherto, on quite insufficient reasons, been regarded as a colour variety of *Eubranchus tricolor*, it is definitely a true *Eubranchus* with its rounded anterior foot corners and its simple transverse rows of cerata etc. It is easily recognizable from any of the other species included in the genus and thus for all purposes a very suitable choice as a type for the genus.

8. Two possible solutions, therefore, seem to be open, both based on the proposal of using *farrani* Alder & Hancock as the type of the genus: (a) to vary the type of *Eubranchus*, disregarding the fact that the genus was monotypic when established; (b) to suppress *Eubranchus*, and also the type selection by Iredale and O'Donoghue (1923) of *tricolor* as the type of *Galvina*, and to accept the latter name as the valid one for the genus, with the 1926 selection by O'Donoghue of *farrani* as type to stand. The general use of the name *Eubranchus* favours the first solution, and I propose that solution as being the one leading to least complication.

9. There are, however, two older names which may possibly be attributed to the genus now known as *Eubranchus*. In the case of one of these the definition is too bad to be of any use and the type specimen is lost. The nomen dubium is *Ethalion* Risso, 1826 (*Hist. nat. Europe* 4 : 36), the type-species of which is, by monotypy, the species *Eolidia hystrix* Otto, 1821, redescribed by the same author as *Eolidia hystrix*, 1823 (*Nov. Act. Leop.* 11 : 277). The identity of this species is uncertain, but many authors have been inclined to identify it with *Spurilla neapolitana* (Chiaje, 1844). Pruvot-Fol (1954, *Faune Fr.* 58 : 442) cannot accept this view but places the species amongst the "incertae sedis." The generic name *Ethalion* Risso was invalidly emended to *Aethalion* by Herrmannsen, 1846 (*Indicis Gen. Malacoz. Primordia* 1 : 22) (non *Aethalion* Lepeletier & Serville, 1828, emend. pro *Aetalion* Latreille, 1809).

10. Alder & Hancock, 1842 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* 9 : 35) gave the name *Eolis hystrix* to a new species but, in 1847 changed the name to *cingulata*. The pictures given by Otto and by Alder & Hancock, however, correspond in so many details that it would not be impossible to imagine them to cover one and the same species, but the identity of *hystrix* Otto will always remain doubtful. It appears therefore that the old name *hystrix* of Otto, and the generic name *Ethalion* based thereon, will remain a potential threat to stability in the names of the genus and some of the species here treated. To avoid this danger, it seems wise to ask for suppression under the plenary powers of these old and doubtful names.

11. When such action is taken it will be well to add the name of still another species, *Eolidia ceratentoma* Otto, 1821 (*ibid.* 1 : 9) and a misspelling of that name, *Eolidia cerentatoma* Pruvot-Fol, 1954 (*ibid.* 58 : 442) to the Official Index. This species is as indeterminable as the former one and as the name is older than those of most nudibranchs, it constitutes another potential threat to stability.

12. In 1844, Quatrefages (*Ann. Sci. Nat. Paris* (3) 1 : 145) established the genus *Amphorina*, type-species by monotypy, *Amphorina alberti* Quatrefages, 1844. The figure given by that author definitely shows his species to be the same as that named *Eolis farrani* by Alder & Hancock in that very same month (March, 1844). The name *farrani* has never been misinterpreted, whereas the name given by Quatrefages has been involved in some of the worst confusions that have ever appeared in the names of nudibranchs. The confusion was initiated by Trinchese who referred some specimens belonging to species of *Trinchesia* to the genus *Amphorina* (see Z.N.(S.) 1106 *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 21 : 52-55). One of these species is a close relative of *Trinchesia foliata* (Forbes & Goodsir) but was identified with *Amphorina alberti* Quatrefages. I therefore

propose that the International Commission suppress the generic name *Amphorina* and the specific name *alberti*.

13. The International Commission is therefore asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers:
 - (a) to set aside all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Eubbranchus* Forbes, 1838, made prior to the Ruling now requested and, having done so, to designate *Eolis farrani* Alder & Hancock, 1844, to be the type-species of that genus;
 - (b) to suppress the following generic names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:
 - (i) *Ethalion* Risso, 1826;
 - (ii) *Amphorina* Quatrefages, 1844;
 - (iii) *Galvina* Alder & Hancock, 1855;
 - (c) to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:
 - (i) *histris* Otto, 1821, as published in the binomen *Eolidia histris*;
 - (ii) *hystrix* Otto, 1823, as published in the binomen *Eolidia hystrix*;
 - (iii) *ceratentoma* Otto, 1821, as published in the binomen *Eolidia ceratentoma*;
 - (iv) *alberti* Quatrefages, 1844, as published in the binomen *Amphorina alberti*;
 - (v) *tricolor* Forbes, 1838, as published in the binomen *Eubbranchus tricolor*;
 - (vi) *arenicola* Alder & Hancock, 1847, as published in the binomen *Eolis arenicola*;
- (2) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Eubbranchus* Forbes, 1838, (gender: masculine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1) (a) above, *Eolis farrani* Alder & Hancock, 1844;
 - (b) *Egalvina* Odhner, 1929 (gender: feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Galvina viridula* Bergh, 1874;
- (3) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *farrani* Alder & Hancock, 1844, as published in the binomen *Eolis farrani* (type-species of *Eubbranchus* Forbes, 1838);
 - (b) *viridula* Bergh, 1874, as published in the binomen *Galvina viridula* (type-species of *Egalvina* Odhner, 1929);
- (4) to place the following generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Ethalion* Risso, 1826; (b) *Amphorina* Quatrefages, 1844; (c) *Galvina* Alder & Hancock, 1855 (all suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (b) above);
 - (d) *Aethalion* Herrmannsen, 1846 (an invalid emendation of *Ethalion* Risso);

- (5) to place the following specific names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:
- (a) the six specific names suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) (c) above;
 - (b) *hystrix* Alder & Hancock, as published in the binomen *Eolis* (*sic*) *hystrix* (a junior primary homonym of *Eolidia hystrix* Otto, 1823);
 - (c) *cerentatoma* Pruvot-Fol, 1954, as published in the binomen *Eolidia cerentatoma* (an erroneous subsequent spelling of *Eolidia ceratentoma* Otto, 1821);
- (6) to place the family-group name EUBRANCHIDAE Odhner, 1934 (*Brit. Antarct. (Terra Nova) Exp. Nat. Hist. Rept., Zool.* 7 : 278) (type-genus *Eubbranchus* Forbes, 1838) on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology.